(d) During Prime Minister's visit to Tokyo in December 2006, the two countries shared the view that international civil nuclear energy cooperation should be enhanced through constructive approaches under appropriate IAEA safeguards. They will continue to discuss the international civil nuclear cooperation framework with respect to India.

Implementation of Bharat Nirman

*619. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has decided to take steps to remove the bottlenecks that come in the way of timely implementation of Government's flagship programme *i.e.* Bharat Nirman and also to push for speedy environmental clearance for rural road projects and also changing the current fund flow arrangements of the irrigation programme; and

(b) if so, what are the concrete steps Prime Minister has taken particularly with six major components *i.e.* irrigation, roads, houses drinking water, electricity and telephone connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Committee on Rural Infrastructure constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister is monitoring the progress of all the Bharat Nirman programme components.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued a notification in September 2006 dispensing with the requirement of environmental clearance for construction of rural roads in forest areas and Himalayan areas.

The guidelines for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme was liberalized in December 2006 and Central assistance has been changed from Loan-Grant mix to only Central grants to states. The Central assistance is in the form of Central grant 90 per cent of project cost in Special category States, projects benefiting drought prone area, tribal areas and flood prone areas and 25 per cent in case of all other projects in Non Special Category States.

Bharat Nirman remains the cornerstone of the Government's policy. For Bharat Nirman, as against Budget Estimate 2006-07, the Budget Estimate for 2007-08 has been increased by 31.6 per cent. The Budget provisions made for the individual components under Bharat Nirman during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as under. The allocations for the individual components have been enhanced from 24% to 52%.

(Rs. crore)

Component	Budget Allocation 2006-07	Budget Allocation 2007-08	*Per cent* increase
Irrigation-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit programme	2350.00	3580.00	52
Rural electrification—Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana	3000.00	3983.00	33
Rural water supply—Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme	5200.00	6500.00	25
Rural Roads—Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	5225.65	6500.00	24
Rural Housing—Indira Awaas Yojana	2950.00	4040.00	37
Rural Telephone Connectivity	Outside the Budget through Universal Service Obligation Fund		

De-congestion of Urban Development

*620. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 285 million urban people in the country account for 28 per cent of the country's total population which is estimated to double by 2025;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard; and